other entitled categories. In such purchases, no preference is given to any firm, whether large or small-multinational or otherwise. Only products considered readily saleable, based on the clientele preferences are procured. No specific guidelines have been issued to provide special concessions to small scale sector in purchases to be made by CSD. Nevertheless instructions have been issued along with other constituents of the Defence set-up, to induct/promote use of certain selected products manufatured in the Handloom/Handicraft/Cohage segments of the small scale sector.

(c) and (d) No financial incentives are given to goods from the small scale sector.

Defence co-operation with Russia

1112. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government arc contemplating purchase of defence hardware and service from Russia to the tune of fifteen million dollars under a new ten years' defence co-opca-tion programme with that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Infiltration of ISI in the Army

1113. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI men plan to join Army" which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 25th August, 1998;

(b) whether Government have assessed the gravity of the ISI activities in the country as well as its infiltration in the Army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to curb the ISI infiltration in the Army?

THE 'MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of Pakistan ISI's support to militant activities in India, the possibility of their attempts to infiltrate agents in the armed forces cannot be ruled out. However, no such incident has come to the notice of the Government so far. Appropriate and elaborate measures exist to detect and neutralise enemy infiltration into the armed forces.

Shelling by Pakistani troops

1114. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Life in the shadow of Death" published in the Tribune, dated 10th September, 1998 to the effect that since June 27, 1998, shelling by Pakistani troops on the national highway from Srinagar to Kargil enroute Leh has been too frequent, intense and treacherous so as to cut the supplies to Ladakh region;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure proper security for transport and traffic moving along the highway; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Pak-authorities to prevent such shelling of traffic on the highway?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Army has been providing safety to vehicular traffic and supply convoy on this highway by regulating the movement of such traffic. This method has been very successful and the winter stocking in